

MINUTES
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 26, 2010
Hamilton County Highway Department
1700 S. 10th Street
Noblesville, Indiana

Vice President Altman called the Commissioners meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. declaring a quorum present of Commissioner Christine Altman and Commissioner Steven A. Holt. Commissioner Steven C. Dillinger was absent.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Consultant Selection

Mr. Jim Neal requested selection of consultants for construction observation for ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) projects. These projects were let by INDOT (Indiana Department of Transportation) on February 24, 2010.

- A. 234th Street resurfacing from city limits of Cicero to Overdorf Road (SRS-32764-A)
- B. 146th Street resurfacing from the Hamilton/Boone county line to Ditch Road (SRS-32339-A)
- C. Pedestrian Facility along 106th Street from College Avenue to Rangeline Road and College Avenue from I-465 to 105th Street (SRS-32789-A)
- D. Pedestrian Facility along 146th Street from Cherry Tree Road to River Road (SRS-32790-A)

Holt moved to approve consultants as follows, Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- A. 234th Street to USI
- B. 146th Street to Floyd Burroughs & Associates
- C. Home Place Trails to First Group
- D. 146th Street pedestrian facility to Cripe

2010 Projects

96th Street – Mollenkopf Road to Fall Creek

Olio Road – 96th Street to Geist Reservoir

Monon Greenway over 146th Street

Mr. Brad Davis discussed the highway department's planned additional appropriation requests; some of these projects were previously approved appropriations that were not encumbered for 2010. Davis stated the first three (3) projects are planned federal aid projects that are ready to go at some point this year. When we discussed these projects last year the Council agreed to fund the local match and those monies are in the Rainy Day Fund. The 96th Street to Mollenkopf to Fall Creek project is on hold pending what might happen with the ARRA 2 or Jobs Bill. Altman asked who makes that decision if it will go or not? Davis stated the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) is on board with us and letting it go as a Jobs project, if that funding is approved. Davis stated the other two projects are eligible and are on hold pending approval of the Jobs Bill. The MPO has recognized all three of these projects. Altman asked if there are any other projects on this list that ARRA money could be used for and we could use the MPO's help on? Davis stated he does not think so; it depends on timing of when the money is available.

Nickel Plate

Altman stated the MPO has asked whether we can help participate in the local share of the environmental study for the Nickel Plate. If they let the contract with the consultant it is estimated to cost \$3.4 million with the local share at 20%. Altman would like to know if we could suggest to them we would more amenable to contributing if we could have some savings out of this. Holt asked if the environmental study will only be in Fishers? Altman responded no it will go to Noblesville. Davis stated the scope of the project is to the junction of the rail line to the White River. Altman stated the environmental contract has been approved through the Marion County process. Altman stated they have asked for \$150,000 for the 2010 share but they may be asking for more because it is a two year contract. It could be 10% of the whole contract (approximately \$320,000). Altman stated in all fairness we should participate but she was personally unhappy with the size of the contract given the fact this has already been studied. Holt asked if there would be merit that we would go with a pro-rata share if they take it to the Tipton County line? Altman stated that would be a significant increase to the contract and the contract would have to be renegotiated. Altman stated realistically we would not be able to find the money for this project and there is a shelf life on the environmental study. Holt stated he would support 50%. Holt asked if this is just the Nickel Plate or does it go west to Indianapolis International Airport? Altman stated this is for the whole plan as presented. Davis stated this is for the Nickel Plate line from Union Station to White River. Holt asked what is going on with the airport? Altman stated it is not under consideration at this point, it is one of the alternatives where it looped back to the airport but when the MPO studied it there was not ridership to support that investment. It is still a good leg and has been identified as such and will probably be the next segment. Holt and Altman had consensus on the local share.

Davis stated he is not sure how long it will take Congress to act, if they do. There may be a point where they say they have 80% of federal funds tied up and we need to get those spent, we will then have to make a decision whether to go forward with it as an 80/20 project. Altman asked what do we have ready? Davis stated he does not have anything else that can be ready for this summer. There is environmental and land acquisition needed for the existing projects. Neal stated there may be a few paving projects that could be done. Holt stated they have asked Mike (Howard) to meet with Davis regarding financing for the land acquisition on 146th Street and Ditch Road.

FY 2011 Appropriations Bill

Davis reported he has been working on the FY 2011 Federal Appropriations Bill with Jan Powell which is due today by 12:00 noon. That request will be for funding of land acquisition on the 146th Street West project in the amount of \$3.5

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million; Senator Lugar's office has told Ms. Powell that the request will probably be cut and expect less than that amount. This would fund the first mile with hopes of having it ready for construction in 2012. Altman asked if there has been any discussion in the Jobs Bill to open it up to allow acquisition of right of way? Davis stated he has not heard of any changes in the Jobs Bill verses ARRA, it was all construction.

Davis reported the 96th Street project will be ready for letting this month, the other two projects should be ready for letting in August. Davis stated if the Jobs Bill does not fund the Monon Trail project we still have a verbal agreement with Clay Township for that project and we have the Village Park TIF funds to help offset the match. Davis recommended this project go ahead with local funding. Altman asked Stevens to follow through with Mike Howard on drafting the interlocal agreements with Clay Township.

136th Street & Prairie Baptist Road

Davis stated the 136th Street and Prairie Baptist Road is the first project is a federal aid project and if things would accelerate with that they might be able to have it ready for a Jobs Bill project. There is still land acquisition needed, design is complete, with a public meeting scheduled for this spring. Altman asked if this can be accelerated? Mr. Joel Thurman stated the time frame is to get the public meeting done so they can get to environmental and then purchase right of way; they are trying to get there as fast as they can. Neal stated the key is where the environmental document is, it has to be at a certain point before you can hold the public hearing. The entire design is being done by Cripe. Holt asked what is the expectation of Cripe? Neal stated the public hearing is scheduled this spring with bid letting in 2011. Thurman stated no date has been set for the public hearing, we will never have a firm date of when the environmental document will receive initial approval. The environmental has been sent to the feds, there is nothing the consultant can do at this point. Davis stated they will inform Cripe we intend for this project to be a Jobs Bill project and we need it accelerated as much as possible.

206th Street – Hague Road to Cumberland

Davis stated on 206th Street from Hague to Cumberland Road the request is to keep going with design and right of way engineering. If things progress there is a possibility by late 2010 we could start appraisals and then land acquisition with these costs at \$3 million per segment of the project. We are requesting the \$474,000 to keep the design moving. Altman asked if this is federal money? Davis stated no, it will be local money. Altman asked how are we going to find the money for this? Davis stated they intend to submit it with an MPO call for projects coming out for FY 2013 and 2014, which would be for construction not right of way. Davis stated their intent is to move it into the federal aid hopper through the MPO's call along with the next segments of 146th Street west, which is a higher priority. Holt asked where are we in the design process? Thurman reported we are on preliminary design completed this spring with a public meeting once that is complete. Holt asked if this includes environmental before it goes to the public meeting? Thurman stated they are not doing a full environmental at this time, if it gets selected for federal aid then they will do the environmental. Altman asked if we should do the environmental before design? Neal stated this does have a new alignment but he does not think we will get in any trouble with environmental. Davis asked Thurman what would be the funding difference if we went ahead and did the environmental? Thurman stated he does not know. Davis stated it would save time and it would be ready quicker. Altman stated she does not see us building this without federal aid. Holt agreed. Holt asked what is an estimate of construction costs? Thurman stated approximately \$6 to \$6.5 million per mile and this project is about two (2) miles. Holt stated he agreed with Altman and we should do this to federal standards. Altman stated we need to be realistic; we also have the shelf life on the environmental. Holt stated one way or another it needs to be built. Davis stated even if we did the environmental and then came back years later it is easy to update it. Altman stated they could not do that on the Nickel Plate. Neal stated the scope of the Nickel Plate is huge compared to this project. Davis asked Thurman if we moved to go ahead with this as a federal aid project, will it change our \$474,000 request? Thurman stated yes. Neal stated it would make sense to have one of our consultants do the environmental for the entire project. Altman asked that they look at this and bring back a recommendation to the Commissioners.

106th Street and Ditch Road

Davis stated they just received the interlocal agreement with Carmel on 106th Street and Ditch Road. Altman stated this funding request is what we committed to Carmel? Davis stated correct, that is the county's share. Davis stated we need to re-advertise it because the contractor would not pull his prices from the first letting.

161st Street and Gray Road

Davis stated they are proposing funding for the design and right of way engineering for 161st Street and Gray Road intersection to get it to a stopping point. They would like to apply for federal funding for this project. They are going to look at whether this would qualify for safety funding. Altman stated we can't continue to build in areas where it will be annexed and we don't get the COIT (County Option Income Tax) money.

96th Street and Cumberland Road

Davis stated they are looking at getting the 96th Street and Cumberland Road project to get it to the right of way engineering stage. Neal stated if they back out the land they are looking at \$100,000. Holt asked why is that us instead of Fishers? Davis stated it is in our jurisdiction and it is a problem area. Davis stated they have moved things around in the MPO's plan so now there is a project that shows up in their cost constrained portion which means if the money comes in as anticipated the project will be funded. He has talked to Fishers several times regarding extending the design on the ½ mile west and they have agreed they would be willing to participate in that. Davis is waiting to hear

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back from Fishers. Altman suggested being more proactive and sending the contracts to Fishers Town Council. Stevens will speak with Gary Huff, Fishers Town Manager.

206th Street and Overdorf Road

Davis stated the project on 206th Street and Overdorf Road started as minor project to improve sight distance, it has morphed itself into a \$2.5 million improvement with a complication of a gas line that will have to be relocated for one of the desirable options. Davis stated there are other places more important to spend money on but their approach to DLZ is to give them lower cost options but those include relocating the gas line. Davis stated they have one option that does not require relocating the gas line but it still costs \$1.3 million. Neal stated they currently do not have an accident problem at this location but it has the potential to have issues. The original thought was a \$500,000 project to make the correction but it has cost \$76,000 to determine the problem. Holt stated 206th Street east of Cumberland Road is a road to nowhere and with the light on SR 37 it would be logical but it takes too long to get anywhere. All of the traffic from the north goes to Cumberland Road, it is faster and safer. This project could be a decade away, maybe longer. Altman recommended picking a design and shelving it. Davis stated they have discussed it and if the money comes we would have a project. They have discussed asking DLZ find the money and then the county will proceed with design. Neal stated the initial budget got DLZ to grade review, which is fairly early into the plans. Altman asked how much land acquisition is there? Neal stated there will be substantial land acquisition. Holt asked if a roundabout would work? Neal stated traffic control at the intersection is not the problem it is the sight distance to the west. Local traffic heading east bound know there is a sight distance issue and that is why we don't have an accident problem but if we have somebody that is not familiar with the area and they come over the hill and there is a roundabout, it would make it worse than what we have now. Davis recommended letting DLZ see if they can make it work for federal safety funds. Davis stated this is one of his issues with the MPO over the \$11 million, why can't we spend some of those funds on areas that we know have a potential deficiency even though we don't have the crashes. Altman asked Davis to prepare a brief on this issue and she will bring it up for discussion to the IRTC.

146th Street/Estridge

Holt reported Dave Richter has been contacted by Umbaugh and the finance person at Estridge regarding the project on 146th Street. Richter told Holt that he was constrained on what he could tell Umbaugh and Estridge because the county was concerned about giving out too much information. Holt stated he did not think anything was top secret and not sure why we would not share anything with Estridge. Altman stated she is more concerned about staff time and consultant time on a project that she did not know if Estridge had a vested interest in partnering with us. Holt stated they want to know what the county's game plan is on the first leg of the project. Davis stated there is nothing else to tell them, we don't know what Estridge's project is. Holt stated he wants to build 3,000 homes at 146th Street and Ditch Road. Estridge is anxious to have 146th Street done yesterday and Holt told him to speak with Dave Richter whom contacted Davis who told him to be cautious about what we tell them. Altman stated Richter discussed this with her and she told him we had the presentation and she was personally not impressed with Estridge having the county build it without offering any partnership which we made it clear they needed to. She does not want his staff or our staff spending a whole lot of time on this until they define what they want. Davis stated they want to know the price, which is all we know and he has told them that. Holt stated we have given them the preliminary utility plans. He is not sure what else Richter wants to know. Davis will ask Estridge and Dave Richter to meet with his staff to discuss their plans.

US 31 Pedestrian Bridge

Davis reported they have met with RW Armstrong and Gary Pence of INDOT regarding the proposed US 31 Pedestrian Bridge that will parallel 146th Street on the north side of US 31 between Greyhound Pass and Western Way. He informed them the county does not have a lot of money and asked INDOT to consider funding the design, utility relocation and look at what they could do with right of way. Pence informed him they could not fund construction but he would look at what they can do. Davis told him if they could get to that stage and their design for US 31 could accommodate it then at some point in the future if funds became available we could build it. RW Armstrong has started preparing a TE (Transportation Enhancement) Grant Application which we may submit but there is a \$1 million limit. Altman asked if we receive multiple awards on the same project? Davis stated he does not know if the county can, Westfield may be able to receive an award. Altman suggested they (Westfield and the county) pair up. Davis stated you can also include it for a lower priority STP funding. Neal reported no county money has been spent to date on this project. Davis asked if the Commissioners agree with pursuing this grant application? Altman and Holt concurred.

2011 FY Appropriations Request Letter

Holt moved to approve the letter to Senator Lugar requesting consideration for funding of the 146th Street West Phase project from the fiscal year 2011 appropriations bills. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Dillinger was contacted by phone and consented to let Dan Stevens sign the letter in his absence.

Traffic Study Correspondence

Davis requested a final vote on the letter to Eric Beckner regarding sight distance at 196th Street and Promise Road which was discussed during the February 22, 2010 meeting; the correspondence received a motion and a second but no final vote. Holt called to question. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2010 Census

Altman reported the Hamilton County Leadership Academy contacted SAMCO (Hamilton Southeastern Utilities) and they are willing to put a reminder of the Census on their billing statements. They have asked for a Commissioner

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request. Holt so moved. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Altman asked Holt if she could contact Clay Regional Waste regarding the same request? Holt concurred.

Holt moved to adjourn. Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Present

Christine Altman, Commissioner
Steven A. Holt, Commissioner
Dawn Coverdale, Auditor
Dan Stevens, Administrative Assistant to Commissioners
Brad Davis, Highway Director
Jim Neal, Highway Engineer
Joel Thurman, Highway Project Engineer
Kim Rauch, Administrative Assistant to Auditor

APPROVED
HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST

Dawn Coverdale, Auditor